

FLD 378

25X1

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

EVALUATION [REDACTED] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 12 June to 18 July 1953

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A DATE PREPARED 17 August 1953

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 2 -- sketches on ditto

REMARKS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

1. Between 24 June and 15 July 1953, night flying by swept-back jet fighters was repeatedly observed at Koethen airfield. On 15 July, 14 swept-back jet fighters, 2 biplanes, 4 high-wing monoplanes, and 7 additional aircraft were in front of the hangars.

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2. [REDACTED] the following railroad supply shipments arrived for Koethen airfield:

T = tank car

Date 1953	Number of Railroad Cars and Shipment	Dispatched From	Consignee
25X1B 15 June	4 T	Velten	[REDACTED]
	5 cars with flour	Schoenebeck	unit at airfield
22 June	5 T	Velten	Soviet Army
29 June	5 T	Velten	Soviet Army
29 June	4 T	Aken	Soviet Army
25X1B 4 July	5 T	Velten	[REDACTED]
6 July	8 cars with ration supply	Jueterbog- Altes Lager	airfield Koethen
25X1B 8 July	4 T	Aken	[REDACTED]
9 July	5 cars with articles of clothing	Weimar	unit at airfield
25X1B 11 July	4 T	Velten	[REDACTED]
11 July	4 cars with flour	Schoenebeck	unit at airfield

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25X1B 12 July 5 cars with ration supply Jueterbog-Altes Soviet Army  
 15 July 4 cars with equipment Lager  
 Zerbst, Unit unit at airfield. 1

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3. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field between 23 June and 16 July:

23 June to 4 July. Every night when source observed the field, flying was practiced.

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29 June. Twenty-seven MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s were counted at the field. During the daytime, take-offs were made by individual aircraft and formations. The radar set was in operation throughout the day.

3 July. In the morning, swept-back jet fighters practiced flying at an estimated altitude of 8,000 to 10,000 meters.

15 July. At 7 a.m., no aircraft were observed at the landing field or in the aircraft revetments. At about 8:15 a.m., 12 jet fighters were towed out of the hangars for maintenance work. There was no air activity between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Landings were made by two conventional aircraft at 11:30 a.m. and one jet fighter at 12:20 p.m. After the landings, the radar set stopped operating.

16 July. Individual night flights were made between 9:40 p.m. and 2 a.m. The aircraft which took off from the field returned after a few minutes from the east flying at an altitude of 600 to 800 meters. The aircraft flew for some time in the beams of searchlights without making defensive motions. 2

4. The following radio installations and radar sets were observed at the field:
- Outer low frequency approach beacon, north of Pfriemsdorf.
  - PKV-45 DF station, about 300 meters west of the outer low frequency approach beacon.
  - Inner low frequency approach beacon, east of the field, west of the road fork.
  - SCR-602 Kniferest type radar set, east of the northern hangars.
  - Fishnet-type radar set, 60 to 70 meters north of the SCR-602 Kniferest type radar set. 3

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5. On 16 July, the AA emplacement in the southeastern section of the field was still occupied by six 37-mm AA guns.
6. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field between 7 and 15 July:

7 July. There was air activity between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and at night. There was a closed ceiling.

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8 July. Between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., individual flights were made by MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks.

9 July. Between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., there was a 6/10 overcast and 2 Yak-11s were observed aloft. Between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., jet fighters practiced flying. From 10 p.m. until after midnight, night flying was practiced.

10 July. No aircraft were observed aloft throughout the day. There was a closed ceiling. Between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m., night flying was practiced by swept-back jet fighters in groups of twos. The aircraft flying in front was illuminated by searchlights located on the ground while the second plane attacked the illuminated aircraft.

12 July. There was a 5/10 overcast. No air activity was observed.

13 July. Between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., individual take-offs were made by MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s. There was a 10/10 overcast and it rained intermittently.

14 July. Between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., individual flights were conducted by MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s. The sky was 3/10 overcast and there were some rain showers.

15 July. Air activity was observed between 8:50 a.m. and 10:40 a.m. There was a 5/10 overcast. 2

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25X1 8. Between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on 13 July, there was no air activity observed at the field. There was hazy weather with intermittent rain. About noon, trucks [ ] were observed coming from the field and proceeding toward Koethen. Trucks [ ] occupied by air force soldiers, were observed proceeding individually. 4

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25X1 1. [ ] According to available information, the ration supply and clothing depot of the Southern Ftr Corps is stationed at Koethen airfield. The central ration supply depot and the central clothing depot of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army are stationed at Justerbog-Altes lager airfield. The latter have [ ] Besides, food and clothing are probably delivered directly to Koethen by manufacturing firms.

25X1A2. [ ] Comment. Koethen airfield is occupied by a fighter regiment and another unit which is also equipped with MiG-15s. As was observed at other airfields of the two fighter corps, an increased night flying activity was observed at Koethen, sometimes with the cooperation of searchlights. For arrangement of searchlights as of 16 July 1953, see Annex 1.

25X1A 3. [ ] Comment. For location of radar sets and radio installations, see Annex 1 and 2.

25X1 4.

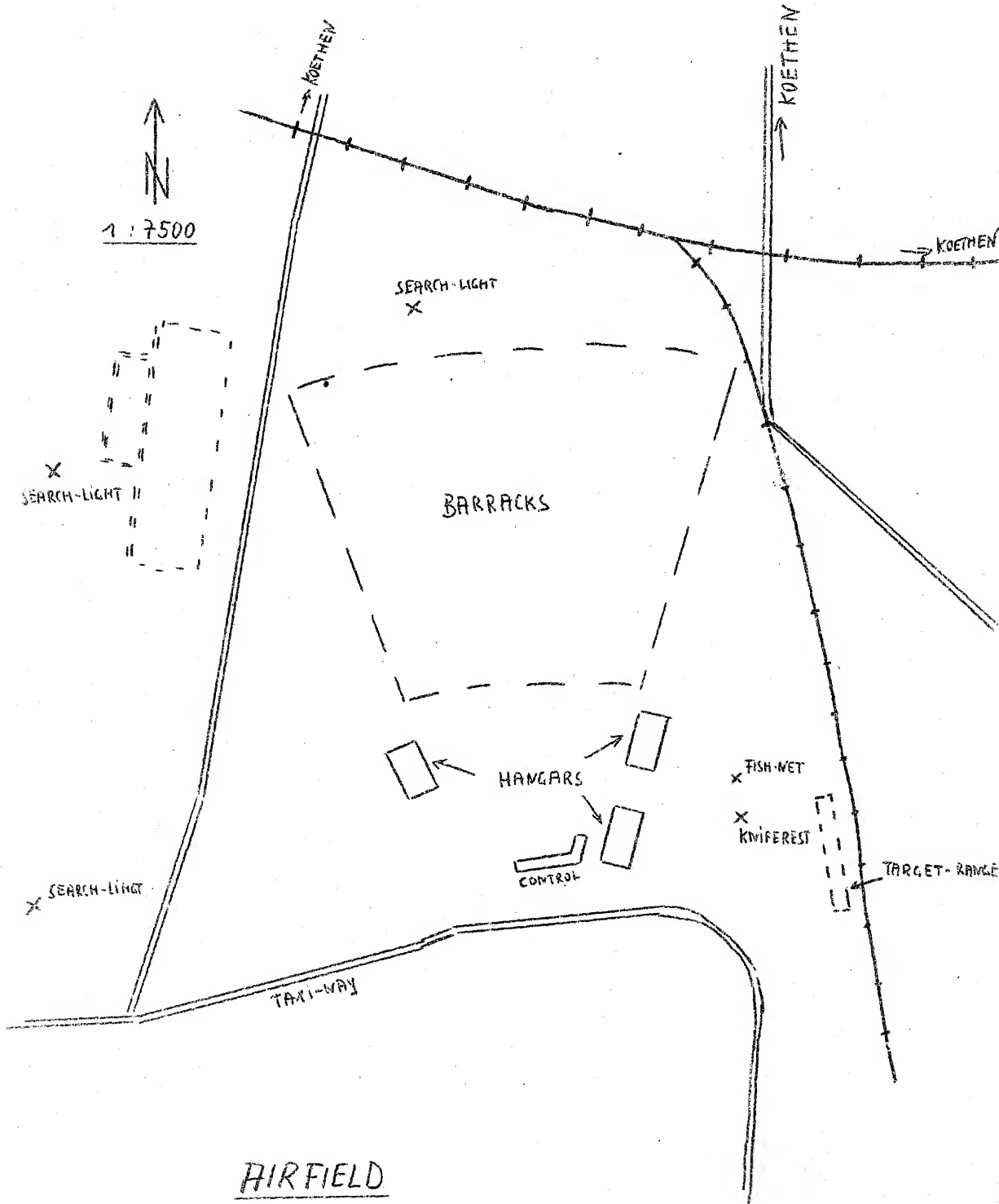
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Annex 1

Searchlights and Radar Sets Observed at Koethen Airfield

on 16 July 1953

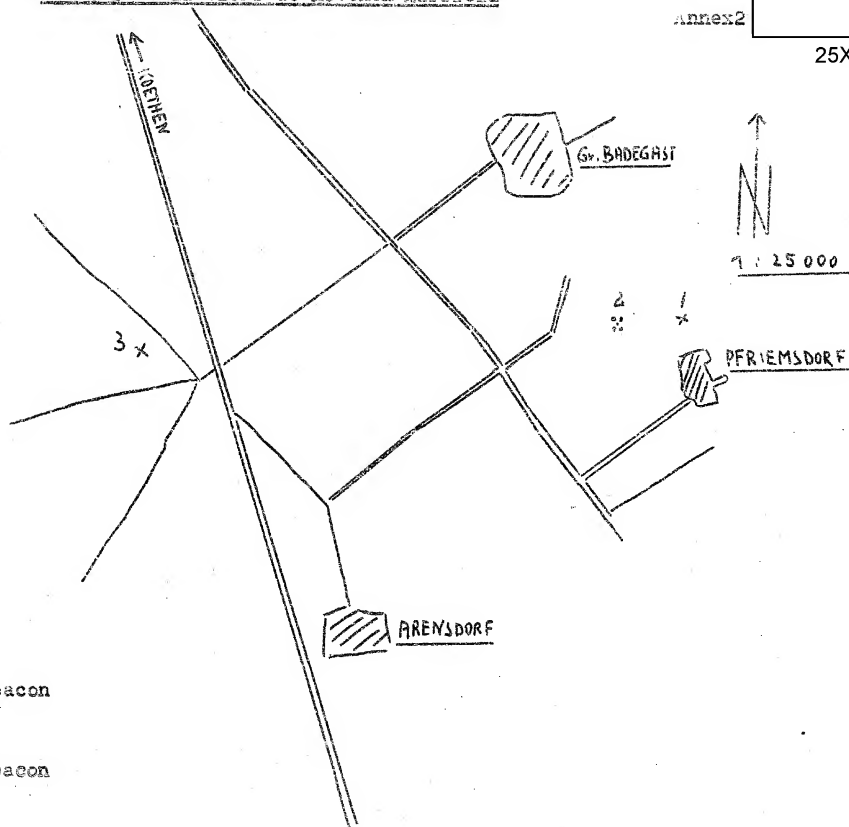


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Annex 2

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AIRFIELD



Legend:

- 1 Outer low frequency approach beacon
- 2 PKV-45 DF station
- 3 Inner low frequency approach beacon

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